

A3 24.[amended] The article of claim 23 wherein said layer [comprised] consisting essentially of zirconium compound, titanium compound or zirconium-titanium alloy compound [is comprised] consists essentially of zirconium compound or zirconium-titanium alloy compound.

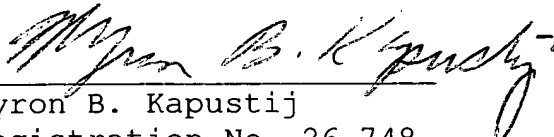
A4 26.[amended] The article of claim 24 wherein said layer [comprised] consisting essentially of zirconium, titanium or zirconium-titanium alloy [is comprised] consists essentially of zirconium or zirconium-titanium alloy.

27.[amended] The article of claim 25 wherein said layer [comprised] consisting essentially of zirconium, titanium or zirconium-titanium alloy [is comprised] consists essentially of zirconium or zirconium-titanium alloy.

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 have been canceled. Claims 22, 24, 26 and 27 have been amended.

Respectfully submitted,


Myron B. Kapustij
Registration No. 26,748
Masco Corporation
21001 Van Born Road
Taylor, Michigan 48180
(313) 792-6298

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